The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

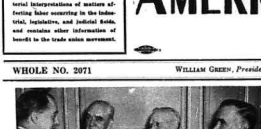
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1913, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

**Samuel Gompers said:**

**Much has been done to let pure air and sunshine into working places, to exclude conditions breeding organisms injurious to life, but ever-increasing knowledge and the widening of our conception forbid us to stop or stay in the crusade for human welfare.**

WHOLE NO. 2071 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 40, NO. 51



SPONSOR GOMPERS FUND.—Chicago.—Dr. Edward J. Sparling (left), president Roosevelt College, meets CIO President Philip Murray, AFL President William Green and Machinists President A. J. Hayes, sponsors of $100,000 Samuel Gompers Memorial Fund to be established at the college on behalf of labor.

## Gompers Preached Labor Unity–Hayes

Chicago.—A. J. Hayes, president International Association of Machinists, said that "the fruit of Sam Gompers' life was the American organized labor movement."

Mr. Hayes, whose union members are voting during December on reaffiliation with the AFL, appeared with AFL President William Green and CIO President Philip Murray on the program establishing $100,000 Samuel Gompers Memorial Fund at Roosevelt College.

The American organized labor movement is Mr. Gompers' heritage to the working class of the United States, Mr. Hayes said.

"That heritage is not restricted to any particular federation of trade unions. It is rather a concept of organized labor to a set of principles and a framework of collective bargaining by wage earners in industry and of united action in political affairs. It has to do with labor solidarity everywhere.

"That which is united is invincible was the essence of Gompers' philosophy.

"All of us and the organizations we represent grew out of the same soil, and as regards fundamental characteristics, operating techniques, general purpose and goals, our organizations are so similar that it is difficult to point to one single major difference between them.

"The division within our ranks is making it impossible for organized labor to play its historic role in preserving a democratic form of government and a free society anywhere in this very seriously troubled, tragic world."

SAMUEL GOMPERS

**A photograph of the founder and first president of the AFL, hitherto unpublished during the 1950 Gompers Memorial Fund campaign for the 100th anniversary of his birth in December, Jan. 27, 1850. Mr. Gompers died Dec. 13, 1924, in San Antonio, Texas.**

# Green Pledges AFL Patriotic Support For Duration; United Labor Drafts Price-Wage Policy For Truman

### *Says 8,000,000 Members "Will Render Highest Order of Service to the Nation In Its Time of Need"*

Washington.—AFL President William Green pledged that the 8,000,000 AFL members will render the highest order of service to the nation in its time of need and will respond fully whenever President Truman asks for a no-strike pledge.

Mr. Green was the first labor leader to endorse President Truman's proclamation of a national emergency.

Appearing on the AFL radio program over American Broadcasting System Dec. 16, Mr. Green was asked by AFL Public Relations Director Philip Pearl how labor would respond to the proclamation.

"Labor will respond fully and enthusiastically to the call for service," Mr. Green replied.

The nation's workers clearly understand the dangers America faces. They are ready to work longer hours to produce the planes, ships, tanks and weapons needed for the defense program. Their sons, boys, the flower of Americans in all walks of life, are being called up for military service.

"I confidently predict that labor will succeed in making America the arsenal of freedom in record-breaking time, just as we broke all records in production of victory during the last war."

In response to other questions during the interview conducted by Mr. Pearl, the AFL president said:

"Our only hope of preventing all-out war in the immediate future is to build up our own military defenses and those of our allies to a point of such overwhelming superiority that the communists will not dare to attack us. The communist leaders are in a stronger position than we are now, especially in the size of their armed forces.

"But, to achieve this, over-pessimism is just as dangerous as overconfidence. American industry will soon be turning out tremendous quantities of planes, ships, tanks and guns, not only for our own defense, but for the united defense of our allies overseas.

"The Soviet nations will never be able to match either the quality or the quantity of war production. America may be behind now, but if we concentrate wholeheartedly on the job that must be done I am confident that we will forge far ahead of the communists in the near ahead.

"Labor is ready to go more than halfway in joining with management and the farmers in programs to increase production for defense. Compulsory manpower controls will not be necessary. Our free American workers are willing to work to the limit of their endurance and to do if necessary to prevent communism from spreading its tentacles over the free world and our own beloved country.

"Whenever the President of the United States calls upon us for service, I am certain that the 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor will respond fully."

## *President Proclaims National Emergency*

Washington.—President Truman proclaimed a national emergency Dec. 17 because of the threat of world conquest by communist imperialism.

He said that if this goal of communist imperialism were to be achieved, the people of this country would lose their freedoms, including worship, free speech, to criticize their government, to choose those who conduct their government, the right to engage freely in collective bargaining, the right to engage freely in their own business enterprises.

Mr. Truman summoned all citizens and leaders to cooperate fully and willingly in all efforts and sacrifices to preserve the nation and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

"I summon each of you, our workers in industry and our businessmen to take a mighty production effort to meet the defense needs and the threat of regression in this end to eliminate all waste and inefficiency and to subordinate all lesser interests to the common good," Mr. Truman said.

Simultaneously he appointed Charles E. Wilson, who resigned as president of General Electric Co., as Director of Defense Mobilization with full authority to "direct, control and coordinate all mobilization activities" including production, procurement, manpower, stabilization and transportation.

Mr. Truman's action, which followed a radio speech to the nation, brought immediate favorable response from AFL President Green and stepped up the whole tempo of the nation's defense mobilization.

### *AFL Afto Unions Bid To U. S. Parley on Industry Pay*

Washington.—The United Labor Policy Committee drafted a wage-price policy in hand by President Truman as its first major project.

The committee was formed Dec. 14 by top officials of the AFL, CIO, International Association of Machinists and Railway Labor Executives Association. Its purpose is to make representations to the President of the United States and government agencies having to do with mobilization problems."

AFL President William Green said in an interview on "As We See It," AFL radio program on the American Broadcasting Company network Dec. 16, that "we hope to formulate a fair and equitable price-wage policy and submit it to the government."

"Labor will demonstrate that will be reasonable, constructive and sound," he said. He reasserted AFL policy favoring an opportunity to bring wage rates back into the parity with prices that existed before the Korean war and against unjust price-wage policies which would weaken our national economy.

"Our purpose is to try to find a solution that will be reasonable and flexible enough to prevent unjust hardships," Mr. Green said.

"We realize that all of us will have to tighten our belts for a few months and years to come. We will all have to sacrifice some things. But how many families of workers will lose income as they are called into military or the support of the family, are drafted into the armed forces.

"We therefore have to make certain that the wage-earning members of families who are left are free to earn enough to make a living. Otherwise our homes and the security which workers we must rely upon to do the heavy production job ahead will be dangerously weakened."

Meanwhile the Wage Stabilization Board issued a policy statement and called AFL unions in the auto industry to a conference on pay-price problems. Economic Stabilization Administrator Alan Valentine earlier ordered auto companies to rescind December price increases and maintain prices at the Dec. 1 level.

Mr. Green invited the AFL United Auto Workers, Pattern Makers League of North America and Molders and Foundry Workers Union to attend the session with board members and other unions.

The Wage Board's policy statement was unanimous. AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates, Machinists Vice President Roy M. Walker and CIO Vice President Emil Rieve joined industry and public members.

The board said the inflation problem must be attacked on a broad front, of which wage stabilization was but one element. It listed limited credit, real estate, consumer, rent, price, commodity market controls, limitation on business inventories and allocations of materials, quotas, as other components.

"These must be supervised, integrated and administered in a broad national program to prevent inequities from defense mobilization conditions, wage and salary controls have a definite and essential part to play," the board said.

It urged as measures to increase production such as the establishment of existing facilities and manpower; increased facilities, allocation of more people into the labor force, and increase in scarce supplies of raw materials.

## Green Says Centennial Year Spread Story of Gompers' Life Worldwide

New York.—AFL President William Green said the work of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee had spread "the story and meaning of Gompers' life and work throughout America and beyond our borders."

Mr. Green praised the committee's work during the year-long 1950 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers, who was born Jan. 27, 1850, in London and died Dec. 13, 1924, in San Antonio, Texas.

On winding up the formal observance, Mr. Green said:

"It is a proper time to consider what we have accomplished by these activities and how they have served the memory of Samuel Gompers.

"These undertakings have been broad and diverse in scope and nature. They have been carried forward with vigor and have won the support of those responsible for their organization.

"At the beginning of the year we launched a great organizing drive in the name of that greatest organizer of them all.

"The Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee was formed to promote a wider recognition of Gompers' place in history and of his contributions to labor and to democracy. This committee has been instrumental in widespreading the story and meaning of Gompers' life and work throughout America and beyond our borders, by means of the press, the radio, magazines and other media.

"Special meetings and events in honor of Gompers have taken place in the auspices of national and international unions, central labor bodies, state federations and regional groups from coast to coast. Commemorative meetings were also held in South America and Europe.

"Institutes and conferences devoted to the study of Gompers' contributions to American life, have been conducted by several colleges and universities.

"During the past year the Labor Day celebration, our united labor campaign, and our expanded political program all emphasized and advanced the Gompers theme.

"A few days ago I attended a dinner in Chicago which was arranged for the purpose of creating a Samuel Gompers Memorial Fund, to be used as an avenue of financial support to labor of higher education.

"This brief record only touches upon what has been done in this campaign to sustain and enhance the vital force of the spirit of Gompers. It does not adequately recognize the time, care and hard work that has been devoted to this campaign by the many persons who have helped to advance it thus far. Of course, it can best be said that their most worthwhile reward is in their effort to put their knowledge of its high purpose to effective use among the workers of America and beyond our borders, by making it impossible for organized labor to play its historic role in preserving a democratic form of government and a free society anywhere in this very seriously troubled, tragic world."

## Happy Holidays!

Washington.—In observance of the holiday season, the AFL News Service will omit the issues of Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The next Tuesday issue will be published Jan. 9, 1951.

There will be issues of the supplement on Friday, Dec. 22, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5.

The staff extends to members, editors and readers sincerest best wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

## AFL Sheep Shearer Captures U.S. Title

**Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service**

BY DAN SMYTH

Chicago.—Elmer Lott, 50, a member of the AFL Sheep Shearers' Union, won the international sheep shearing contest at the 1950 International Livestock Exposition in the Chicago stockyards.

Mr. Lott, an employee of Sycamore Feed Yards of Sycamore, Ill., defended his 1949 championship successfully against more than 20 of the world's best and fastest sheep shearers.

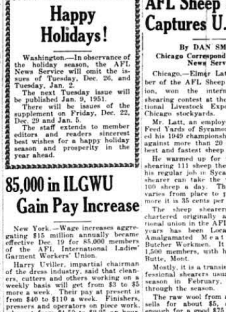
He warmed up for the contest by shearing 111 sheep the day before at his regular job in Sycamore. A good shearer can take the wool off about 100 sheep a day. The rate of pay varies from place to place; in Sycamore it is 35 cents per sheep.

The sheep shearers' union was chartered originally as an international union by the AFL, but in recent years has been Local 301 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen. It includes sheep shearers' members, with headquarters in Butte, Mont.

Mostly, it is a transient trade. Professional shearers usually start their season in February, moving north through the season.

The raw wool from a single animal is sold for about $5, although it is enough for a good $75 suit for a man or a $25 jacket for his wife.

The union operates a cooperative to sell wool clothing and shears to its members. Since about 1930, electric shears have been in general use, although hand shearing still is done in many places.



CHAMPION SHEEP SHEARER—Chicago.—Elmer Lott, 50, Sycamore, Ill., member Local 301, AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, successfully defended his 1949 sheep shearing championship at the 1950 International Livestock Exposition with the fastest, neatest job in a field of more than 20 competitors.

## 85,000 in ILGWU Gain Pay Increase

New York.—Wage increases aggregating $4,000,000 annually have been effective Dec. 19 for 85,000 members of the AFL International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Tony Pastor, industrial chairman of the dress industry, said that cleaners, cutters and others working on a weekly basis will get from $3 to $5 more a week. Their pay at present is from $40 to $110 a week. Finishers, pressers and operators on piece work, who get from $1.50 to $2.25 an hour will get hourly increases of 15 or 16 cents, according to Mr. Uviller.

Under the new contract employers will pay a sum equal to 6¼ percent of wages into a health and welfare fund.

## AFL Metal Trades Asks Congress To Build Ships to Meet Crisis

Washington.—The AFL asked Congress to approve immediately a program to build ships to meet the crisis of war abroad.

In a telegram to every member of Senate and House, AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer President James A. Brownlow urged them to "take such steps as will insure for the future a merchant marine representative of the strength of our great nation."

They recalled that the AFL metal trades department, speaking for 14 international unions, had warned Congress in 1946 that the nation's merchant marine was inadequate to meet the needs of national defense.

"Our warning was disregarded," the telegram said. "As a result the nation is shamefully short of ships to meet the present crisis."

The telegram expressed the feeling of sorrow I experienced when I received your telegram announcing that your friend had passed away." Mr. Green said.

"His death is shocking and his passing touches many hearts sincerely. He was beloved and respected by myself and associates of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor. I extend to you my sincere attention to your husband, how great is your sorrow.

"You and all of us have sustained a great loss as a result of the passing of Brother Weber."

Vice President James C. Petrillo and members of the executive board escorted Mr. Weber's funeral in Los Angeles Dec. 15.

**Buy Independence Bonds.**

**BOOST ASIAN CO-OPS**

Geneva.—Ways to help the millions of Asian workers and consumers in Asia to develop cooperatives will be discussed at the International Labor Organization's first Asian Technical Conference on Cooperation at Karachi, Dec. 26 to Jan. 2.

**HONOR 50-YEAR MEMBERS**

New York.—Local 3, AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is presenting gold watches and badges to 51 members who have belonged to the union for 50 years.

**Buy Independence Bonds.**

## Green Calls Weber Death a Great Loss

Washington.—AFL President William Green said that the American Federation of Labor "sustained a great loss in the death of Vice President Joseph N. Weber, 84, president emeritus American Federation of Musicians.

Mr. Green telegraphed condolences to Mrs. Weber in Beverly Hills, Calif., where Mr. Weber died of a heart attack on Dec. 12.

"I express sincere the feeling of sorrow I experienced when I received your telegram announcing that your friend had passed away," Mr. Green said.

"His death is shocking and his passing touches many hearts sincerely. He was beloved and respected by myself and associates of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor. I extend to you my sincere attention to your husband, how great is your sorrow.

"You and all of us have sustained a great loss as a result of the passing of Brother Weber."

Vice President James C. Petrillo and members of the executive board escorted Mr. Weber's funeral in Los Angeles Dec. 15.

**Buy Independence Bonds.**

**BOOST ASIAN CO-OPS**

Geneva.—Ways to help the millions of Asian workers and consumers in Asia to develop cooperatives will be discussed at the International Labor Organization's first Asian Technical Conference on Cooperation at Karachi, Dec. 26 to Jan. 2.

**MARK 50 YEARS**

San Francisco.—Local 85, AFL International Brotherhood of Teamsters, first Teamster union organized west of the Mississippi river, honored its members at a 50th anniversary celebration.

## *Vital Task Confronts Labor*

By PHIL HANNAH

**Secretary-Treasurer Ohio State Federation of Labor**

Columbus, O.—On the heels of the election comes the realization that irresponsible people who will use the old technique of the smear and the big lie can and do have too much influence for our national security.

The 1950 Ohio election campaign was a good example of the malicious smear attacks being carried on against labor by organized hate-labor groups through their control of newspapers, radio stations and magazines. We are deeply concerned over the success of these attacks.

With few exceptions, the newspapers deigned the real issues and waged a campaign of innuendo, accusation, half truths and outright lies. In this they were aided by their national syndicated columnists.

These tactics were used not only to elect Taft but to discredit organized labor as a whole by vilifying our state leadership, and intimating that trade unionism is basically subversive and undemocratic.

There is no doubt that many voters, including members of our own unions, fell for this Soviet-like propaganda. The fact that Taft carried many of our large industrial centers would bear this out.

Therefore, the most vital task confronting organized labor today is to plan and put into effect a broad public relations policy to educate the public to a better understanding of our problem.

Labor must realize that its ability to function is closely tied into the legislative action of our government. The greatest gains by workers in this country have been embodied in social legislation.

The labor movement of this country must combat the wealth and power of its enemies unless it can get its program before the people. There is a need for a regular, reliable medium of information which will carry our program and directives to not only our own members but one that can be placed in the hands of the general public cheaply and regularly.

We must also apply practical means to strengthen all of our publicity mediums; radio, the local labor press, etc. We must enlist the cooperation of approved, friendly and sympathetic groups. Women's auxiliaries must be given representation on committees, and should be called upon for service on all occasions.

Sometimes in our eagerness for results we forget that some achievements can be attained only through our collective powers.

We must take our losses with our gains, and fight harder than ever to overcome temporary setbacks.

We will continue our efforts to thrust the light of truth through the smokescreen of confusion and deception thrown up by those who would undermine the structure and hard-won standards of unions. We will continue to fight for the things that make America a better place to live.

**TUCKER APPOINTED**

Detroit.—Henry F. Tucker was appointed Detroit regional director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

# *Voluntary Manpower Controls Ready for 1951 Bottlenecks*

Washington. — Manpower bottlenecks may start developing in several months earlier than previously expected.

Voluntary controls modeled on World War II are being prepared to deal with the problems with the West Coast, Chicago and Cleveland largely as the first likely trouble zones.

AFL President William Green said in a radio broadcast Dec. 16 that mandatory manpower controls will not become necessary.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin outlined the Truman Administration's policies to the Office of Defense Mobilization at the first meeting of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee, which includes Mr. Green and AFL Vice President Dan W. Tracy.

AFL members throughout the country will be asked to serve on regional and area labor-management committees as part of this program.

Voluntary controls under consideration are:

1. Employers asked to do all hiring through the 1800 local Employment Service offices.

2. A priority system to give defense producers first priority, nonessential industries the lowest.

3. To prevent quits, workers applying for new jobs would have to present "statement of availability" as in World War II.

4. To bring pressure on uncooperative employers, the government would use its priority and allocation powers to cut off materials.

5. Local labor-management committees would help prevent hoarding and bidding for workers, get compliance with manpower regulations, and recruit needed workers.

"We approach the problem of defense manpower with the conviction that if management and labor are fully informed concerning the problems facing this nation in defending itself, concerning the actions necessary for each to take to provide maximum power to meet defense and essential civilian production, that they will take such action voluntarily and with a minimum of guidance," Secretary Tobin said.

Initially, emphasis will be directed toward West Coast areas and the Chicago and Cleveland areas, he said.

Regional committees will be established in 12 major cities, and area committees will be set up eventually in 151 industrial production centers. The regional committees will be composed of three members: a management representative, with the regional director of the department's Bureau of Employment Security as chairman.

CONFER ON CLUs.—Champaign-Urbana, Ill.—W. Elliott Chalmers (left), director University of Illinois Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, discusses agenda of conference held there on Central Labor Unions with President Reuben G. Soderstrom (center) of Illinois Federation of Labor, and Stanley Johnson (right), secretary-treasurer of state federation.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

**Samuel Gompers said:**
**The improvement in the condition of the working people of our country is not the result of any kindly philanthropy, not a matter of sympathy. The improvement is due entirely to the united associated efforts of the working people themselves.**

UNITED LABOR POLICY COMMITTEE—Washington.—Newly-formed United Labor Policy Committee to deal with U. S. agencies on defense mobilization problems consists of these top officials, seated, l. to r., AFL Vice President George M. Harrison, CIO President Philip Murray, AFL President William Green, Machinists President A. J. Hayes, Railway Labor Executives President George T. Leighty, and Railway Labor Executives Secretary A. E. Lyon. Standing, l. to r., CIO General Counsel Arthur J. Goldberg, CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey, CIO Vice President Walter Reuther, Machinists Vice President Einer E. Walker, AFL Vice Presidents D. W. Tracy and W. C. Doherty and AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany.

# Labor Asks Truman Revise Law to Get Tight Price Curbs, Fair Wage Control

## *Tells President Defense Act Fails to Halt Rising Living Costs and Errs in Putting Wages Under One Person*

Washington.—The United Labor Policy Committee asked President Truman to revise the government's wage-price policies and seek amendments to the Defense Production Act so that the cost of living can be held down and the wage-earner's purchasing power not destroyed.

A unanimously supported statement was handed President Truman at the White House on Dec. 20 by a subcommittee composed of AFL President William Green, Vice Presidents George M. Harrison and Daniel W. Tracy, CIO President Philip Murray, Vice President Walter P. Reuther and Executive Board Member Jacob S. Potofsky, Machinists President A. J. Hayes and Railway Labor Executives President George T. Leighty.

"We pledge ourselves unreservedly to the service of our nation and to the support of the President in the present crisis," the Labor Committee told Mr. Truman. "The security, the dignity and material well being of the wage earner in America, as well as throughout the whole world, are dependent upon the preservation and extension of the democratic way of life."

The committee made these points:

**Participation**—It is imperative that labor be granted active participation and real leadership in every important agency in our mobilization effort. We regret that to date labor has not enjoyed opportunity for full participation in the mobilization effort.

**Living Costs**—Under provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950 it is impossible to control these prices. The present prohibitions upon control of food prices and rents are an effective barrier to any system of price or wage controls.

**General Controls**—American industries are so integrated that no one of them can be singled out for the purpose of wage and price control. Price control must be general.

**Wage Stabilization**—Wage stabilization procedures should be revised so that the wage stabilization board is given the status and authority to make decisions on matters within its jurisdiction.

Wage stabilization policy must:

1. Permit adjustments to compensate for increases in cost of living.
2. Not become wage freezing.
3. Provide for correction of substandard wages.
4. Provide for adjustments in inequities in existing wage rates within or between industries.
5. Recognize the principle that wage earners should share in the benefits of industrial progress and increases in productivity, which the nation must and will have from its defense mobilization effort.
6. Recognize existing collective bargaining agreements which themselves secure stability.
7. Hold inviolate overtime payments for premium work now protected by collective bargaining agreements or existing law.

**Purchasing Power**—An equitable tax, savings, price and rationing control program is the answer to this problem of rising purchasing power.

**Manpower**—World War II experience demonstrates that maximum efficiency, production and security can be achieved through voluntary manpower policies. Use of compulsory civilian labor will defeat our efforts to attain our goal of maximum production.

The United Labor Policy Committee's recommendations were handed to Mr. Truman by Alan Valentine, Economic Stabilization Agency chief on business and industry for a nationwide voluntary compliance on price ceilings.

The agency established a "voluntary" ceiling that would confine profits within the limits of the average for the years 1946 to 1949, inclusive.

Corners in the neighborhood of the Dec. 1, 1950 levels.

The agency's announcement came into effect with the auto and petroleum industries in trying to get them to roll prices back voluntarily to the 1949 level.

# *Profits Tax Passed; Wilson Takes Oath*

Washington.—Congress completed work on a bill to tax corporation excess profits $3,200,000,000.

The bill falls short of AFL recommendations that it provide $6 billion at least, but represents a smashing defeat for the Big Business Lobby which opposed any profits tax.

Meanwhile President Truman signed the bill extending federal rent controls to next March 31.

Housing Expediter reported that 128 additional communities have been designated as ready to establish controls to run into June 30. Some 1,000 communities which have not acted remain.

Also waiting President Truman's signature was the bill granting $258 million in emergency funds to Yugoslavia.

AFL Railroad unions pressed the House for favorable vote on a Senate-approved bill permitting a union shop on rail and air lines.

In other year-end developments pushing the nation along to a stronger national defense to combat aggressive communist imperialism, Charles E. Wilson took the oath as director of defense mobilization and the United Labor Policy Committee asked President Truman to revise price-wage policies to make them more effective.

The Economic Stabilization Agency asked manufacturers to give it 7 days notice in advance of any price advance.

CHARLES E. WILSON

**Washington.—Former president General Electric Co. takes over as director of newly-created Office of Defense Mobilization created by President Truman upon the nation's national emergency to resist world-wide Communist imperialism and aggression.**

# *Labor Outlines Wage Policy Best For Entire Country*

Washington.—The following statement was presented Dec. 20, 1950, to Harry S. Truman by the United Labor Policy Committee:

Organized labor in America has established a United Labor Policy Committee composed of representatives of the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Railway Labor Executives Association and the International Association of Machinists. We pledge ourselves unreservedly to the service of our nation and to the support of the President in the present crisis.

**Objectives of United Labor Policy Committees**

Our purpose is to develop a common approach to the problem arising out of the mobilization and stabilization program. We are deeply concerned for our country's security and welfare. The security, the dignity and material well being of the wage earner in America as well as throughout the whole world, are dependent upon the preservation and extension of the democratic way of life. We are fully aware of the grave emergency confronting our nation. We therefore ourselves to help make our country strong and to use that strength to bring peace and abundance to mankind.

It is imperative that labor be granted active participation and real leadership in every important agency in our mobilization effort. We regret that to date labor has not enjoyed opportunity for full participation in the mobilization effort. Free labor can make its fullest contribution only if it is permitted to serve at all levels of defense mobilization both with respect to policy and administration. No one group has a monopoly of ideas in the mobilization of our resources. Each group has much to offer and cooperatively we can defeat the world-wide challenge of dictatorship.

**Control of Living Costs**

The control of the prices of all the elements in the workingman's every day existence is the central problem in wage stabilization. We are compelled to point out that under the provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950, it is impossible to control these prices.

Under this legislation, great increases are especially permitted in the price of food which constitutes approximately 40 percent of the living expenses of the average American family. In addition, rents which constitute about 12 percent of living costs are not now effectively controlled.

So long as food prices and rents are thus subject to sharp and disastrous increases, compensatory wage adjustments must be permitted. The present prohibitions upon control of food prices and rents are an effective barrier to any system of prices or wage controls, and the elimination of these prohibitions are preliminary to any workable stabilization action. Effective control of retail food prices can be achieved and at the same time, farmer can be assured fair prices for their products.

The Defense Production Act should be promptly amended by the Congress to accomplish these ends.

**General and Selective Controls**

American industries are so integrated that no one of them can be singled out for the purpose of wage and price control. Price control, to be effective must be general. Adequate machinery and vigorous enforcement must be created. Otherwise, such controls will break down.

The government should strive for justice and workability in its stabilization measures. To subordinate these factors to pressure for hasty improvisations is not in fact speed, but is rather postponement of the time when real stabilization will be achieved.

While the imperative preliminary steps are being taken, other phases of the stabilization program must be taken into consideration to avoid later error and delay. With reference to wage stabilization, three basic principles should be considered so that they may be embodied in the regulations to be applied.

**Basic Principles of Wage Stabilization**

The first of these has to do with procedures. At the present time, wage stabilization is subject to needlessly cumbersome machinery. As now provided wage policy must first be recommended by a board representative of labor, industry and the public. The recommendations of this board are then subject to the arbitrary decision of a single individual. This makes expeditious and just action impossible.

Review by a single top administrator, chosen for his general administrative experience rather than specific competence in the wage field adds nothing to the process of wage stabilization excepting uncertainty, procrastination and arbitrariness. Wage stabilization procedures should be revised so that the wage stabilization board is given the status and authority to make decisions on matters within its jurisdiction.

The wage stabilization policy must govern the adjustment of wage rates to compensate for increases in the cost of living. Wage stabilization must not become wage freezing. This policy must also provide for the correction of substandard wages and the adjustment of inequities in existing wage rates within or between industries. The now well recognized principle that wage earners should share in the benefits of industrial progress and increase in productivity which the nation must and will have from its industrial workers, should be specifically embodied in the wage stabilization policy. Any wage stabilization policy must recognize existing collective bargaining agreements which themselves assure stability. This would apply, for example, to the automobile and other industries where existing contracts provide for the orderly adjustment of wage rates. The abrogation of contracts arrived at through collective bargaining would inevitably lead to industrial unrest and this would defeat the very goal of stabilization.

Overtime payments for premium work now protected by collective bargaining agreements or existing law must continue to be held inviolate. These provisions do not in any way preclude the working of a work week longer than that now considered to be normal. They merely provide the incentive for productive overtime and holiday work.

**Purchasing Power**

An equitable tax, savings, price and rationing control program is the answer to this problem of excess purchasing power. Rising taxes upon the workers as well as the rise in living cost have already cut their purchasing power. Furthermore, the government has embarked upon a program of stimulating the voluntary investment of as much as possible of current wage payments in defense savings bonds of the United States Government. These latter organizations stand ready to cooperate in every way in the attainment of this goal. Effective price and rationing controls will stimulate the flow of unspent income into voluntary savings. Savings will provide a pool of consumer purchasing power to drive the nation ahead when the emergency is over and production of civilian durable goods may be safely expanded.

**Manpower**

Our labor force is the nation's greatest single asset. Steps should be taken to strengthen and enlarge our manpower resources. This can most effectively be done by fact that free labor can outproduce slave labor. Free labor will play a vital role in achieving the goal of maximum production. World War II experience demonstrates that maximum efficiency, production and morale can be secured through voluntary manpower policies. Use of compulsory civilian labor will defeat our efforts to attain our goal of maximum production.

**Conclusion**

American workers and their unions offer these suggestions in order to get the emergency production program under way as quickly and effectively as possible. We conceive it our responsibility not just to offer criticisms, but also to point out those difficulties and problems which must be solved if we are to achieve maximum national security.

# Racing Wage Controls, West Coast Reports Voluntary 10-17c Boosts

San Francisco.—Mathew Tobriner, reported for northern California from union attorney, says in the official the Metal Trades and Building Trades Council that:

"In view of the possibility of wage controls, shortage of manpower and increased cost of living, shipbuilding management has voluntarily established a pattern of general 10 cent per hour increases of from 10 to 17 cents an hour.

"The trend is manifest in San Francisco Bay area settlements. In the past few months in the 4 crafts covering the largest number of workers, have afforded increases approximating 14c an hour.

"The plumbers received 12½c plus health and welfare plan. Electrical workers received 12½c, carpenters received 17½c and the sheet metal workers 12½c composed of 6½c of wages and 6½c for health and welfare.

"The average increase of these 4 basic crafts, covering thousands of employes in northern California, is 14c an hour."

# *Gompers Centennial Material To Be Edited in Single Volume*

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent of AFL News-Reporter

New York.—There's going to be a new Samuel Gompers book.

The new volume will contain a large amount of hitherto unpublished material related to Gompers and his views on labor, according to plans of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder and first president of the AFL, to be held in London on Jan. 27, 1850.

In making this announcement, AFL Vice President and Committee Chairman Matthew Woll said that the committee's work that "no similar activity by our organization has ever been received with more interest, greater cooperation, or attracted wider attention in the community and the nation."

Mr. Woll was among the speakers at the New York Central Trades and Labor Council dinner on Dec. 13—centennary of Gompers' death on Dec. 13, 1924 in San Antonio, Tex. The New York meeting formally concluded the Gompers Centennial Year.

The affair which brought out an attendance of more than 1,500 trade unionists, government officials and members of the Gompers family, heard President William Green say that the labor movement "took root and grew because Gompers was able to lay the firm foundation of ultimate success upon the ashes of temporary failure, because he drew lessons from failures and used them as stepping stones for the forward progress of labor."

Besides Mr. Green, others who spoke were Secretary - Treasurer George Meany, Mr. Woll, President Thomas A. Murray of the New York State Federation of Labor and Vice Mayor Vincent Impellitteri.

"Gompers never at war for freedom and democracy, even though some people still refuse to recognize the fact and our first job is to defend the institutions of this country," Secretary Meany said.

He emphasized the AFL's determination to enlarge the scope of its political activities. Referring to those critics who advise it to get out of politics because of the results of the last election, he asserted:

"The Republicans haven't elected a President since 1928, but they don't talk of giving up."

In continuing its political activity, he said, the AFL is following the directives laid down by Samuel Gompers and it will continue to do so "even more aggressively in the future."

Vice President Woll hailed Gompers as the leader who "more than any other man in American history was the hero of labor's epic struggle to gain the status and rights of free men and women in a free society" and as founder of the AFL for 37 years kept the AFL "as the democratic center of labor's thinking."

It is no exaggeration to say that "because of Gompers' work and his beneficiaries," he declared.

Referring to the consistent opposition by the AFL to communism, Woll said:

"The American Federation of Labor, under Gompers' leadership, saw more clearly into the communist future and how it would work—work for the destruction of all civilized values and human rights. The AFL was among the first to declare itself against the communist future and to join battle with the protagonists of communism."

## WOLL URGES LOCALS MARK GOMPERS DAY

New York—Samuel Gompers Day will fall on Saturday, Jan. 27, 1951.

AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, chairman of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee, suggests that local and central labor unions, state federations and the AFL Railroad Employes Department hold celebrations on that day with ceremonies.

Mr. Woll first made the suggestion at the dinner last January marking the end of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers, founder of the AFL and first president of the AFL, on Jan. 27, 1850.

He proposed "the setting aside of Jan. 27 of each succeeding year as Samuel Gompers' Birthday to be observed throughout the nation."

# AFL Maintenance of Way Employes Ask Poll to Knock CIO Off Santa Fe

Topeka, Kans.—President T. C. Carroll of the AFL Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes announced that the brotherhood has "gone over the top" in a whirlwind organization campaign on the Santa Fe Railroad.

Climaxing over a month of effort by organizers for the brotherhood, a substantial majority of the 15,000 wage maintenance of way workers on that railroad have now signed authorization cards, requesting representation by the AFL organization, Mr. Carroll said.

That achievement cleared the way for a collective bargaining election on the property.

"We have officially invoked the services of the National (Railway) Mediation Board, asking that an election be held among employes at the earliest possible time," Mr. Carroll said.

The Santa Fe is the only Class 1 railroad on which maintenance of way workers are represented by a CIO affiliate—in this case by the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers. It is the successor to a previous "company union."

On all other Class 1 railroads and nearly all short lines the brotherhood represents the maintenance of way employes. On the Santa Fe, CIO has to bring its representation to the 100 per cent mark before it can be certified.

A date for the election will be fixed by the Mediation Board after it has checked authorization cards and organized the machinery for voting.

Covering a 13,600-mile railroad system, the election will be the largest of its kind in the nation, and will probably require 30 days to complete. A corps of mediators will travel over the system on track motor cars equipped with ballot boxes, contacting the maintenance of way workers right on the job, wherever they are.

# Foster Supports Pay Boosts in ECA Lands

Paris, France.—Western Europe's free trade unions are right in insisting that the fruits of increased productivity must be shared more fairly with workers, ECA Administrator William C. Foster has told the high out planning agency in the Marshall Plan recovery program.

Appearing recently before the Council of Ministers of the Organization for European Cooperation (OEEC), which plans the use of Marshall Plan funds, Mr. Foster reviewed the current economic situation in western Europe, and specifically mentioned the problems of free workers.

"Fairer division of the fruits of productivity" is an important problem facing western Europe, Mr. Foster said. "The free trade unions can rightly insist that workers should receive the just rewards of productive work. Only by impressing the list of people throughout the world can democracy win, on a lasting progressive basis, its war against totalitarianism."

# Histadrut to Honor AFL President Green

New York.—AFL President William Green will be honored for his outstanding contribution to the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, at a dinner by the Chairmen's Trade Union Council for Histadrut on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, in New York City.

Max Zaritsky, honorary president of the United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, who is chairman of the arrangements committee for the dinner, announced that more than 1,200 leaders of AFL affiliates will attend.

Among the principal speakers at the dinner will be His Excellency Abba S. Eban, Israel ambassador to the United States.

"For more than a quarter century, President Green has stood at the helm of the American Federation of Labor, building it into the most powerful free trade union in the world," Mr. Zaritsky said. "As spokesman for 6,000,000 American workers, President Green has fought for and has won many victories on behalf of organized labor. His record is one long saga of service to the cause of human rights and democracy on the home front, in times of peace and in times of war."

Chairmen of the arrangements committee are Joseph Breslaw and Louis Hollander, vice presidents of the ILGWU. James C. Quinn, secretary-treasurer of the Central Union Label Council of New York, is associate chairman. Other chairmen include R. Alvin Albarino, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Polishers International Union; Louis F. Donato, secretary of Building Service Joint Board; Charles W. Hanson, president of the Carpenters District Council of New York; Louis Lugrano, representative of Local 361, Teamsters Union; John O'Rourke, president of the Teamsters Joint Board, and Harry Van Arsdale, manager Local 3, Electrical Workers Union.

Isidor Laderman, director of the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut, is executive secretary of the arrangements committee.

# AFL Teachers Help Cuba Celebration

Havana, Cuba.—A delegation of American teachers, including representatives from the AFL American Federation of Teachers, arrived for Christmas season, Dec. 18-Jan. 1, to help Cubans celebrate the 50th anniversary of public education.

The U. S. Department of State and Federal Security Agency made arrangements for the trip of teachers from 10 states.

Miss Selma Borchardt, Washington, D. C., and Miss Frances Comfort, Detroit, Mich., were sent from AFL.

A special program of events was arranged by the Cuban government for the American delegation to reciprocate for the visit of 12 Cuban teachers to Harvard University in the summer of 1906, which formed the basis for Cuba's public elementary education.

In 1900 President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard and his staff organized and offered to the teachers of Cuba an instructional course and teachers' guide. Harvard students shared their quarters with the Cuban teachers. The city of Boston and neighboring communities subscribed more than $80,000 to cover the cost of food and other expenses of the teachers. The United States Navy made available 4 transports used in the Spanish-American War which took the teachers to Cuba and returned them with them to the port of Boston. Later 1,000 leaders of AFL affiliates met in Philadelphia and Washington, D. C. They were guests of the White House by President McKinley.

# Soviets Use Scabs For Embassy Work

Washington.—The Soviet Embassy used scab labor in installing emergency heat on all floors of its chancery building, and in connecting plumbing, CIO and AFL officials revealed.

The action was branded a "deliberate" use of "strikebreaking" organized labor, by James Carey, president of the CIO Electrical Workers. Martin P. Durkin, president of the AFL Plumbers, declared that it was indicative once more Russia's real attitude toward organized labor.

The plumbing work was reported to be part of preparations for enlarged defense. Mr. Carey pointed out that the Soviet Embassy in Washington for years would come from its own nation, Soviet Russia.

Mr. Durkin said, "This is just one more case revealing Russia's real attitude toward organized labor. Since the Communists seized power in Russia and other countries they have either imprisoned or killed the officials of democratic trade unions. There can be no excuse, not even for hypocrites, in engaging a nonunion employer when there are scores of union contractors available."